



## A STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF KHADI WORKERS IN MALAPPURAM DISTRICT, KERALA

### Commerce

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### ABSTRACT

In Indian economy, small scale and cottage industries play an important role because of their employment potential and their contribution to total industrial output and exports. Our country's industrial sector is featured with low productivity, traditional and backward industries. In such a situation, it is very important to analyze the khadi industry which is established mainly for the economic re-construction of rural people. This study focuses to examine the living standards of khadi workers and their families. The researchers aim to analyze the socio-economic status of khadi workers and to study the problems faced by khadi workers and khadi industries in selected units in the district of Malappuram, from the state of Kerala. The results of the study reveal that only female workers are attracted to the field of khadi industry because of only nominal wages are offered to the workers. The study concludes that various schemes should be introduced to meet the basic needs of workers and better training programs should be imparted to them.

### KEYWORDS

Khadi industry, small scale and cottage industry, socio-economic status, women workers and KVIB.

### INTRODUCTION

A prosperous nation requires well established industries to provide amenities of life to its citizens. Food may be a basic need but for a comfortable life we require clothes, shelter, electricity, machinery and many other things. Economies which cannot provide these facilities to its citizens are considered backward and underdeveloped.

During independence period in India, only very few industries existed in the country like textiles and sugar. Industries like iron, steel, cement, machine tools and transport which are essential for the development of other industries. Industrialization of a country depends upon factors such as availability of social and natural resources, development of industrial facilities, entrepreneurial skills, attitudes of people towards investment etc.

In Indian economy, small scale and cottage industries play an important role because of their employment potential and their contribution to total industrial output and exports. In a developing country like India, small scale industries are playing very crucial and important roles towards poverty eradication, education, employment generation, rural development and creating regional balance in promotion and growth of various development activities.

Kerala's small scale sector is the ninth largest among the other Indian states. Khadi and handloom, sericulture, handicrafts, cashew industry, coir industry etc. are the major small scale industries in Kerala. In Kerala, the agricultural sector growth is limited due to the decreasing rate of the cultivatable land. The agriculture sector in the state cannot provide gainful employment for the increasing population. In these situations, we can find the relevance of khadi and village industries. In Kerala, all the 14 districts are playing important and vital roles for the growth of the national and the state economy through khadi industrial units. Among these 14 districts, the researcher attempts to analyze the socio-economic status of khadi workers in Malappuram district which is a minority dominated district and which is backward in terms of developments comparing to other districts. At present the district carries 15 khadi units under the supervision of Khadi and Village Industries Board(KVIB). Out of these 15 units 10 units are spinning and 5 are weaving units.

### SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Our country's industrial sector is featured with low productivity, traditional and backward industries. One of the major developmental issues in India is unemployment. It is very dangerous in rural areas. In such a situation, it is very important to analyze the khadi industry which is established mainly for the economic re-construction of rural people. This study focuses to examine the living standards of khadi workers and their families.

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Khadi industry is the largest employment generating small scale

industries in Kerala. There are a number of khadi units in Malappuram district in Kerala. These units are facing many problems. The working conditions, salary and standard of living of khadi workers remain very bad. Thus this study aims to understand and analyze the socio-economic status of khadi workers in Malappuram district.

### OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the socio-economic status of khadi workers in Malappuram district, Kerala.
- To study the problems faced by khadi workers and khadi industries in selected units in Malappuram district, Kerala.

### HYPOTHESIS

$H_0$  = There is no significant association between community category of khadi workers and saving pattern of khadi workers.

$H_1$  = There is significant association between community category of khadi workers and saving pattern of khadi workers.

### METHODOLOGY

#### Sample

Data has been collected from 90 samples from 6 khadi industrial units (which includes both weaving and spinning units) and all the workers in the surveyed units are females and they all live in rural areas.

#### Data Sources

Primary data has been collected by using questionnaires and secondary data has been collected through newspapers, journals, books, websites etc.

#### Tools

Collected data has been analyzed by using percentage analysis, chi square test and SPSS.

### LIMITATIONS

- The data have been collected only from 90 respondents due to the shortage of time.
- The study covers only 6 khadi industrial units in the geographical area of Malappuram District from the state Kerala.
- The study mainly depends on respondents' view which may be biased in nature.

### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### TABLE I PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS

#### DEMOGRAPHICAL DATA REGARDING KHADI WORKERS

AGE	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
20-30	17	18.9
31-40	31	34.4
41-50	25	27.8

51-60	14	15.6
More than 60	3	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>MONTHLY INCOME</b>	<b>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Less than 500	2	2.2
500-1000	11	12.2
1001-1500	19	21.1
1501-2000	28	31.1
2001-2500	21	23.3
More than 2500	9	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION</b>	<b>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Illiterate	6	6.7
Lower Primary	12	13.3
Upper Primary	23	25.6
High School	41	45.6
Pre degree and above	8	8.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Hindu	69	76.7
Muslim	17	18.9
Christian	4	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Food	47	52.2
Cloth	4	4.4
Education	12	13.3
Health	15	16.7
Transportation	7	7.8
Others	5	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>SAVING PATTERN</b>	<b>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Bank	64	71.1
Non-Bank	26	28.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>OWNERSHIP OF HOUSE</b>	<b>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Owned	71	78.9
Rental	19	21.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>OWNERSHIP OF LAND</b>	<b>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
No Land	10	11.1
Below 10 cent	33	36.7
10-20 cent	22	24.4
20-30 cent	18	20
30-40 cent	6	6.7
Above 40 cent	1	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>

**TABLE 2 CHI-SQUARE TEST**

Community * Saving Pattern Cross Tabulation					
			Savings Pattern		Total
			Bank	Non bank	
Community	Hindu	Count	54	15	69
		Expected Count	49.1	19.9	69.0
	Muslim	Count	6	11	17
		Expected Count	12.1	4.9	17.0
	Christian	Count	4	0	4
		Expected Count	2.8	1.2	4.0
Total		Count	64	26	90
		Expected Count	64.0	26.0	90.0
Chi-Square Tests					
		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	
Pearson Chi-Square		13.958 <sup>a</sup>	2	.001	
Likelihood Ratio		13.878	2	.001	
Linear-by-Linear Association		2.637	1	.104	
N of Valid Cases		90			
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Here the P-value is 0.001. It is less than 0.05 in 5% significance level. So, the null hypothesis is rejected. It means that it is concluded that there is significant association between the community category of khadi workers and saving pattern of khadi workers.

#### Source = Computed data through SPSS

#### FINDINGS

- It is identified that majority (62.2%) of the respondents is in the age range of 31 to 50. (34.4% belongs to the range of 31-40 and 27.8% belongs to the range of 41-50).
- It is revealed that 31.1% of respondents come under the income scale of 1501-2000, which is followed by 23.3% of respondents who are getting monthly income in the range of 2001 to 2500.
- 45.6% of respondents have educational qualification of high school and 25.6% have the qualification of upper primary education. It is because of that the state Kerala is possessing first rank in terms of literacy among other states in India.
- It is inferred that even though the district is a Muslim majority district, 76.7% of respondents belongs to Hindu community.
- It is identified that 52.2% of respondents spend their income mainly for consuming food and the respondents give second importance for health care expenditure (16.7%).
- It is proved that 71.1% of respondents have selected banks to meet their saving requirements.
- 78.9% of respondents are living in their owned houses.
- It is inferred that 36.7% of respondents have land property of below 10 cent and 24.4% of respondents belongs to the land category of 10-20 cents.

#### SUGGESTIONS

- Workers in the khadi industries should be provided better wage scales.
- Improved relaxation facilities should be offered.
- Muslim citizens should be attracted to the field of khadi products and khadi industries.
- Steps should be taken to encourage the saving habits of khadi workers (especially Muslim citizens) through banks.
- Different Schemes should be provided to khadi workers to meet their basic needs such as food, health care, clothes, childrens' education etc.
- Better training programs should be provided to the workers.
- Measures should be taken to start new khadi units in every village.

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